a demodulator operatively connected to said receiver section, said demodulator demodulating said broadcast carrier transmission to detect an information transmission therein;

a processor operatively connected to said demodulator and said receiver, said processor detecting and routing at said receiver station control signals associated with said information transmission; and

a controller operatively connected to said processor, said controller receiving said information transmission from said processor and detecting the status of a television display, said processor receiving status information from said controller about said television display, said processor at least one of routing [or] and actuating said video storage device to store a selected portion of said information transmission depending on the status of said television display.

3.   (Amended) A method for processing an event signal at a programmable receiver station, said programmable receiver station having a receiver, a tuner, a tuner controller, a digital detector, a processor, and a storage device, said tuner controller receiving instructions from said processor to control said tuner to frequency select event signals, said digital detector for receiving digital signals, said method comprising the steps of:

informing said programmable receiver station of an event signal;

detecting the absence of said event signal based on said step of informing said receiver station of [an] said event signal;

reacting, under said processor control, based on said step of detecting the absence of said event signal;

locating said event signal based on said step of reacting under said processor control; and

processing said event signal based on said step of locating said event signal.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, [where] wherein said step of informing said [programable] programmable receiver station of [an] said event signal further comprises at least one of the steps [one or more steps] of the group consisting of:

informing said programmable receiver station of at least one of a time [or] and a channel of said event signal;

informing said programmable receiver station of at least one of a title [or] and a subject matter of said event signal;

programming said programmable receiver station to process [an] said event signal; and

detecting at least one of [a] code [or] and a datum that at least one of designates [or] and identifies [an] said event signal.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said event signal designates programming to be displayed at a television monitor, said method further comprising one step of the group consisting of:

receiving television programming based on said step of locating said event signal;

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actuating [a] said television monitor based on said step of processing said event signal;

communicating television programming to at least one [or more devices] device based on said step of processing said event signal;

detecting digital data in a television signal based on said step of processing said event signal;

inputting to a computer, digital data received from a remote source based on said step of processing said event signal; and

storing television programming at said storage device based on said step of processing said event signal.

6.   (Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

instructing a computer based on said step of reacting under said processor control; and

instructing said computer based on said step of processing said event signal.

7.   (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said processor reacts by passing at least one [or more signals] signal, said method further having one step of the group consisting of:

locating at least one [or more] signal [words] word in a [broadcast or cablecast] transmission; and

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assembling a signal [unit] based on <u>at least</u> one [or more] signal [words] <u>word,</u> said signal [unit] to be passed.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said event signal designates multimedia programming to present, said method further comprising one step of the group consisting of:

receiving programming based on said step of locating said event signal;

actuating an output device based on said step of processing said event signal;

communicating programming from <u>at least</u> one [or more devices] <u>device</u> based on said step of processing said event signal;

detecting digital data in a [broadcast or cablecast] transmission based on said step of processing said event signal;

inputting to a computer a plurality of control [signal types] <u>signals</u> based on said step of processing said event signal; and

outputting video programming from [a] <u>said</u> storage device based on said step of processing said event signal.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said event signal designates output information content to be generated, said method further comprising one step of the group consisting of:

programming a computer to respond to a plurality of control [signal types] <u>signals</u> detected in [a broadcast or cablecast] <u>an</u> information transmission;

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receiving [a broadcast or cablecast] an information transmission based on said step of locating said event signal;

actuating a device to output said generated output information content based on said step of processing said event signal;

passing digital information to [a] said control signal detector based on said step of processing said event signal;

detecting a plurality of control [signal types] signals based on said step of processing said event signal;

inputting to a computer a plurality of control [signal types] signals based on said step of processing said event signal; and

outputting video programming from a computer based on said step of processing said event signal.

10.   (Amended) A method for processing an event signal at a programmable receiver station, said programmable receiver station having a receiver, a digital detector, a processor, and an output device, said digital detector for receiving digital signals, said processor for processing signals, said method comprising the [step] steps of:

informing said programmable receiver station of [an] a variable event location;

detecting one of the presence [or] and the absence of [an] said event signal based on said step of informing said receiver station of [an] said variable event location;

reacting, under processor control, based on said step of detecting one of the presence [or] and the absence of said event signal;

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processing said event signal based on said step of reacting under processor control; and

outputting programming based on said step of processing said event signal.

11.   (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said step of informing said [programable] programmable receiver station of [an] said variable event location further comprises at least one [or more steps] step of the group consisting of:

informing said programmable receiver station of at least one of an input [or] and an output of said variable event location;

informing said programmable receiver station of a time to at least one of input [or] and output said variable event location;

informing said programmable receiver station of subject matter to at least one of input [or] and output at said variable event location;

programming said programmable receiver station to detect data at said variable event location; and

processing at least one of a mark, code [or] and datum that at least one of designates [or] and identifies said variable event location.

12.   (Amended) A method for processing an event signal at a programmable receiver station, said receiver station having a receiver, a digital detector, a processor, and an output device, said digital detector for receiving digital signals, said processor for processing signals, said method comprising the [step] steps of:

informing said programmable receiver station of an event time;

detecting one of the presence [or] and the absence of [an] said event signal based on said step of informing said programmable receiver station of [an] said event time;

reacting, under processor control, based on said step of detecting one of the presence [or] and the absence of said event signal;

processing said event signal based on said step of reacting under processor control; and

outputting programming based on said step of processing said event signal.

13.   (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of informing said [programable] programmable receiver station of [an] said event time further comprises at least one [or more steps] step of the group consisting of:

informing said programmable receiver station of a location to at least one of input [or] and output at said event time;

informing said programmable receiver station of subject matter to at least one of input [or] and output at said event time; and

programming said programmable receiver station to detect data at said event time.

14.   (Amended) A method of signal processing at a television receiver station, said television receiver station having a television receiver, a television monitor, a signal detector, a processor, and a storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

informing said television receiver station of at least one of:

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(1)   a television program of interest, said television program designated by at least one of a title [or] and subject matter; and

(2)   a time to at least one of receive [or] and display a television program;

receiving a television program based on said step of informing said receiver station;

determining said television monitor is not outputting at least a portion of said received television program; and

controlling at least one [or more] apparatus based on said step of determining.

15.   (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one [or more] controlled apparatus [include] includes said storage device, said method further having at least one step of the group consisting of:

directing said television program to said storage device; and

storing said television program on said storage device.

16.   (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one [or more] controlled apparatus [include] includes said television monitor, said method further having at least one step of the group consisting of:

directing said television program to said storage device; and

storing said television program on said storage device.

17.   (Amended) A method of signal processing at a television receiver station, said television receiver station having a television receiver, a television monitor, a signal

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detector, a processor, and a storage device, <u>said television receiver station being</u> <u>adapted to at least one to at least one of store and output television programming,</u> said method comprising the steps of:

informing said <u>television</u> receiver station of at least one of:

(1)   [a television program of interest, said television program designated by] <u>at least one of a</u> title [or] <u>and</u> subject matter <u>of at least said portion of</u> <u>said television programming;</u> and

(2)   a time <u>to at least one of</u> receive [or] <u>and</u> display [a television program] <u>said at least said portion of said television programming;</u>

determining said television monitor is not outputting <u>said</u> at least [a] <u>said</u> portion of [a] <u>said</u> television [program] <u>programming</u> based on said step of informing said <u>television</u> receiver station; and

performing, under processor control based on said step of determining, at least one of the group consisting of:

(1)   receiving [a television program] <u>said at least said portion of said</u> <u>television programming;</u>

(2)   outputting <u>said</u> at least said portion of [a] <u>said</u> television [program] <u>programming;</u> and

(3)   storing [a television program] <u>said at least said portion of said</u> <u>television programming.</u>

18.   (Amended) A method of enabling an event signal at a receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

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storing operating instructions at a remote data source, said operating instructions enabling said receiver station to <u>detect and</u> react to <u>one of</u> the presence [or] <u>and the</u> absence of said event signal;

receiving at said remote data source a query from said receiver station;

transmitting said operating instructions from said remote data source to said receiver station in response to said step of receiving said query, said receiver station selecting and storing at least some of said operating instructions;

transmitting from a second remote source to <u>said</u> receiver station a signal which controls said receiver station to <u>at least one of</u> locate [or] <u>and</u> process to said event signal based on said operating instructions.

19. (Amended) A method of controlling at least one of a plurality of receiver stations each of <u>said plurality of receiver stations</u> [which] includes a [broadcast or cablecast mass medium program] receiver, at least one output device, a digital control signal detector, at least one processor capable of responding to [an] <u>at least one digital</u> instruct signal, and with each said [mass medium program] receiver station adapted to detect and respond to <u>said at least</u> one [or more] <u>digital</u> instruct [signals] <u>signal,</u> said method [of communicating] comprising the steps of:

[(1)]receiving at a [broadcast or cablecast] transmitter station [an] <u>said at least one digital</u> instruct signal which is operative at [the] <u>said at least one</u> receiver station to react to <u>one of</u> the presence [or] <u>and the</u> absence of an event signal and delivering [the] <u>said at least one digital</u> instruct signal to a transmitter;

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[(2)]receiving at said transmitter station at least one [or more] digital control [signals] signal which, at the receiver station [operate], operates to communicate [the] said at least one digital instruct signal to [a specific] said at least one processor; and

[(3)]transferring said at least one [or more] digital control [signals] signal to [the] said transmitter, said transmitter transmitting [the] said at least one digital instruct signal and [the one or more control signals] said at least one digital control signal.

20.   (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of said instruct signal [or some] and identification data in respect of said instruct signal is embedded in at least one of a television signal [or] and in a signal containing a television program.

21.   (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein a switch communicates signals selectively from [a] said receiver and at least one of a memory [or] and a recorder to [a] said transmitter, said method further comprising one from the group consisting of:

detecting a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct communication;

determining a specific signal source from which to communicate a signal to [a] said transmitter;

controlling said switch to communicate a signal to said transmitter in response to a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct communication;

controlling said switch to communicate a signal from a selected signal source; and

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controlling said switch to communicate to <u>at least one of</u> said memory [or] <u>and</u> <u>said</u> recorder a signal which is effective at the receiver station to instruct.

22.   (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein a controller controls a switch to communicate to [a] <u>said</u> transmitter <u>at least one of</u> a selected mass medium program [or] <u>and</u> control signal, further comprising one from the group consisting of:

detecting a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct transmission;

inputting to said controller a signal which is effective to control said switch;

controlling said switch to communicate <u>said at least</u> one [or more] instruct [signals] <u>signal</u> according to a transmission schedule;

controlling said switch to communicate a signal from a specific one of a plurality of instruct signal sources; and

controlling said switch to communicate [an] <u>said at least one</u> instruct signal to a selected one of a plurality of transmitters.

II. REMARKS

A.   Introduction

The Office Action dated April 3, 1997 has been carefully reviewed. In response thereto, claims 2 - 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the claim amendments.

B.   Overview of 1981 specification

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